We claim:

1   1. At a call server in a packet-based telephony network, a method of maintaining a record of
2   an active media connection comprising:

3   sending a request, to a media gateway, for information regarding said active media
4   connection; and

5   receiving said information.

1   2. The method of claim 1 wherein said sending comprises formulating said request using a
2   network management protocol.

1   3. The method of claim 2 wherein said network management protocol is the Simple
2   Network Management Protocol.

1   4. The method of claim 2 wherein said network management protocol is the Media Gateway
2   Control Protocol.

1   5. The method of claim 2 wherein said network management protocol is the Session
2   Initiation Protocol.

1   6. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing said received information in a memory.

1   7. The method of claim 1 further comprising repeating said sending at a predetermined
2   interval.

1   8. The method of claim 1 wherein said received information includes an identification of a
2   device originating said active media connection.

1   9. The method of claim 1 wherein said received information includes an indication of a
2   duration of time said active media connection has been active.

1   10. The method of claim 1 wherein said received information includes an indication of a
2   coding algorithm used for said active media connection.

1   11. The method of claim 1 wherein said received information includes an indication of
2   Quality of Service setting associated with said active media connection.

1   12. A call server operable to:

2   send a request, to a media media gateway, for information regarding an active media

3   connection; and

4   receive said information.

1   13. A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions which, when

2   performed by a processor in a call server in a packet-based telephony network, cause the

3   processor to:

4   send a request, to a media gateway, for information regarding an active media

5   connection; and

6   receive said information.

1   14. At a backup call server in a packet-based telephony network, a method of acquiring a

2   record of an active media connection comprising:

3   receiving an indication of a failure of a primary call server, said primary call server,

4   prior to said failure, supporting said active media connection;

5   responsive to said receiving, sending a request, to a media gateway, for information

6   regarding said active media connection; and

7   receiving said information.

1   15. At a media gateway in a packet-based telephony network, a method of providing a record

2   of an active media connection comprising:

3   receiving, from a call server, a request for information regarding said active media

4   connection; and

5   responsive to said request, transmitting information regarding said active media

6   connection to said call server.

1   16. The method of claim 15 wherein said request is received using the Simple Network

2   Management Protocol.

1   17. The method of claim 15 wherein said transmitted information includes a network address

2   of a device originating said active media connection.

1   18. The method of claim 15 wherein said transmitted information includes an indication of a

2   duration of time said active media connection has been active.

1   19. The method of claim 15 wherein said transmitted information includes an indication of a

2   coding algorithm used for said active media connection.

1   20. The method of claim 15 wherein said transmitted information includes an indication of

2   Quality of Service setting associated with said active media connection.

1   21. A first media gateway comprising:

2   a receiver for receiving an incoming media flow;

3   a digital signal processor communicatively connected to said receiver for processing

4   said media flow;

5   a transmitter communicatively connected to said digital signal processor for

6   transmitting said media flow to a second media gateway;

7   a processor operable to:

8   receive, from a call server, a request for information regarding said media

9   flow; and

10   responsive to said request, transmit information regarding said media flow to

11   said call server.

1   22. A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions which, when

2   performed by a processor in a media gateway, cause the processor to:

3   receive, from a call server, a request for information regarding an active media

4   connection; and

5   responsive to said request, transmit information regarding said active media

6   connection to said call server.

1   23. A packet-based telephony network system comprising:

2   a packet based data network;

3   a telephone station apparatus;

4   a media gateway communicatively connected to said telephone station apparatus and
5   said data network;

6   a primary call server communicatively connected, over said data network, to said
7   media gateway; and

8   a backup call server communicatively connected, over said data network, to said
9   media gateway and operable to:

10   send a request, to said media gateway, for information regarding an active
11   media connection terminated at said primary server; and

12   receive said information.

1   24. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising a request for information
2 regarding an active media connection.